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REMARKS

The present Response After Final Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.116 is submitted in response to the Final Official Action of August 2, 2007. The Applicant respectfully requests entry of the present Response After Final before reconsideration of the present Application and allowance of the present Application or an Advisory Action if the Examiner deem such to be necessary.

Claims 19-24 (in particular claims 19 and 20) are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for the reasons noted in the official action. In this regard, it is noted that the Examiner refers to claim 21 in the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, but the Examiner's comments apparently apply to claim 20, rather than to claim 21, and the Applicant accordingly assumes in responding to the rejection that the reference to claim 21 is a typographical error that was intended to refer to claim 20.

In response, the rejected claims (in particular claims 19 and 20) are accordingly amended herein above to address and overcome the noted grounds for rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112. It should also be noted in this regard that, as discussed further below, the amendments to method claim 19 further include the incorporation of the subject matter of claim 20, which was indicated by the Examiner as allowable over the cited prior art.

The presently pending claims are now believed to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter regarded as the invention, thereby overcoming all of the raised § 112, second paragraph, rejections and the Applicant accordingly respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all rejections of the claims, under 35 U.S.C. § 112. It should also be noted in this regard that the entered claim amendments are directed solely at overcoming the raised indefiniteness rejection(s) and are not directed at distinguishing the present invention from the art of record in this case.

Next, claims 11-13, 16, 17 and 19 are rejected, under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), over Gaubitz et al. '125 while claim 18 is rejected, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), over Gaubitz et al. '125 in view of Arena '852. The Applicant acknowledges and respectfully traverses both of the raised rejections in view of the following remarks.

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In this regard, the Applicant first notes that the Examiner found claims 20-24 to be allowable if amended to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, for which the Applicant respectfully thanks the Examiner. In response, claims 20 and 19 are accordingly amended above to address and overcome the rejections, under 35 U.S.C. § 112, and the Applicant respectfully submits that the claims, as amended, now meet all requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112. It is, therefore, the Applicant's belief that claim 20, and thereby dependent claims 21-24, are now in allowable form and the Applicant accordingly respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejections of claims 19 and 20-24, under 35 U.S.C. § 112, and allow claims 20 - 24 as amended herein above.

It will also be noted that claim 19 is amended to incorporate the recitations and limitations of claim 20, so that claim 19 is now believed to be allowable over Gaubitz et al. '125 and/or Arena '852 as well as the combination of Gaubitz et al. '125 in view of Arena '852 under the requirements and provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 102 and/or 35 U.S.C. § 103 for at least the same reasons that claim 20 is allowable over Gaubitz et al. '125 and/or Arena '852. The Applicant accordingly respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all rejections of claim 19 over Gaubitz et al. '125 and/or Arena '852 and allow claim 19 as amended herein above.

Lastly, it will be noted that independent claim 11 is canceled while the remaining claims, that is, claims 12, 13 16, 17 and 18, are amended to now depend from allowable claim 20 so that it is respectfully submitted that dependent claims 12, 13 and 16-18 are now allowable over Gaubitz et al. '125 and/or Arena '852 for at least the same reasons that claim 20 is allowable over those citations. The Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all rejections of claims 12, 13 and 16-18 in view of Gaubitz et al. '125 and/or Arena '852 and allow claims 12, 13 and 16-18 as amended herein above.

If any further amendment to this application is believed necessary to advance prosecution and place this case in allowable form, the Examiner is courteously solicited to contact the undersigned representative of the Applicant to discuss the same.

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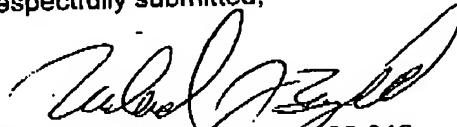
In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all of the raised rejection(s) should be withdrawn at this time. If the Examiner disagrees with the Applicant's view concerning the withdrawal of the outstanding rejection(s) or applicability of the Gaubitz et al. '125 and/or Arena '852 references, the Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to indicate the specific passage or passages, or the drawing or drawings, which contain the necessary teaching, suggestion and/or disclosure required by case law. As such teaching, suggestion and/or disclosure is not present in the applied references, the raised rejection should be withdrawn at this time. Alternatively, if the Examiner is relying on his/her expertise in this field, the Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to enter an affidavit substantiating the Examiner's position so that suitable contradictory evidence can be entered in this case by the Applicant.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the raised rejection(s) should be withdrawn and this application is now placed in a condition for allowance. Action to that end, in the form of an early Notice of Allowance, is courteously solicited by the Applicant at this time.

The Applicant respectfully requests that any outstanding objection(s) or requirement(s), as to the form of this application, be held in abeyance until allowable subject matter is indicated for this case.

In the event that there are any fee deficiencies or additional fees are payable, please charge the same or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account (Account No. 04-0213).

Respectfully submitted,



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